

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /063 W
-----055710 260745Z /15

R 251143Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1655
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL ADANA POUCH
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 3180

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, TU, BU
SUBJ: TURKISH-BULGARIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS

REF: (A) ANKARA 2696, (B) SOFIA 728, (C) ANKARA 3037

1. TO DATE, LITTLE INFORMATION REGARDING LUKANOV
TALKS IN ANKARA HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE. A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TURKISH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
INFORMS US THAT NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE RELEASED
ON THE DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH ONE IS LIKELY TO BE
PUBLISHED AT THE CONCLUSION OF TALKS NOW UNDERWAY IN
SOFIA INVOLVING TURKISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE KOPRULULER.
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATES THAT OFFICIALS
INVOLVED IN THE TALKS WHO WILL HAVE RETURNED FROM
SOFIA, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS RESULTS WEEK OF MONDAY,
MAY 1.

2. MEANWHILE, TURKISH PRESS HAS REPORTED FOLLOWING
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ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS, ALL OF WHICH WE PRESUME CONCERN
PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDINGS SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION IN SOFIA:

A. AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRAL BANKS OF THE TWO
COUNTRIES HAS BEEN REACHED UNDER WHICH BULGARIA WILL
EXTEND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PROGRAM CREDIT TO TURKEY
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35 MILLION. CREDIT REPORTEDLY WILL

BE USED FOR URGENTLY NEEDED PURCHASES OF IRON AND STEEL,
FERTILIZERS, AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

B. THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY WHICH BULGARIA SUPPLIES
TO TURKEY WILL BE INCREASED TO 600-700 MILLION KWH AND
EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES CONNECTING THE TWO COUNTRIES'
GRIDS WILL BE EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE THIS INCREASE.
BULGARIA WILL DEFER DEBTS NOW DUE FOR IMPORTS
OF
ELECTRICITY FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.

C. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, A DAM ON THE RIVER
TUNCA WILL BE JOINTLY CONSTRUCTED FOR PURPOSES OF
IRRIGATION IN THE THRACIAN REGIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

D. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN SUCH
AREAS AS MACHINERY MANUFACTURING, ENERGY PRODUCTION,
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRO-MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING,
AND AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WILL BE EXPANDED
WITH A VIEW TOWARD INCREASING BILATERAL TRADE AS WELL
AS TRADE WITH COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD.

3. COMMENT. THE FOREGOING, WE REPEAT, IS BASED ON
PRESS REPORTS AND IS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION WHICH
WE ARE CONTINUING TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN, ALONG WITH
FURTHER DETAILS. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THESE
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DISCUSSIONS REPRESENT AN ACCELERATED TURKISH EFFORT
TO MAKE USE OF AGREEMENTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
IN ORDER TO BROADEN THE BASE OF TURKISH TRADE AND ECONOMIC
RELATIONS. WHILE THE FRAMEWORK FOR THESE CONTACTS HAS
BEEN IN PLACE FOR SOME TIME PREVIOUSLY, WE BELIEVE THE
DETERMINATION TO OBTAIN RESULTS, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN
LACKING UNDER PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, IS STRONG WITHIN
THIS ONE.
SPIERS

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